

Dr. Stiles has not observed that clearness and precision which are essential to a correct understanding of them in all their bearings.

It is very certain that Dr. Stiles believes the morbid matter, whatever this may be, to which the production of every form of fever is due, enters into, or is generated in the blood; and that the blood thus poisoned, by its action upon the bloodvessels, causes a general relaxation of their muscular tissue, and, in consequence, an augmented pressure in the arterioles and capillaries, with an increased rapidity of the circulation generally.

Fever is defined by Dr. Stiles to be "an acute morbid activity of the general circulation and vital combustion, caused by the direct action of a blood poison upon the muscular tissue of the bloodvessels." Increased activity of the circulation is generally, he remarks, regarded as the fundamental element of the febrile state, the remaining phenomena of fever being its natural results, or mere concomitants. He associates, he informs us, with the expression "*vital combustion*," no theory of animal heat, but would simply indicate the symptom from which fever derives its name.

Dr. Stiles has endeavoured to show—and it appears to us not without success—1. That no simply nervous theory is adequate to furnish an explanation of febrile phenomena; 2. That febrile phenomena cannot be explained alone by simply increased activity of the heart; and, 3. That the nervous disturbances exhibited in every case of fever are secondary or coincident, not fundamental and essential.

"The cause of the fever may lie, indirectly, in severe mental strain, or in some overpowering sorrow; the cause may persist in all its force when the fever is aroused, and, happily, often removes the system from nervous sway, and saves a life which would otherwise fail to sustain the nervous tension. A blood poison has been produced through the agency of the nervous system, which, by acting on the muscular tissue, has released the system from nervous control, and generated the fever. The admission of such an element is a necessity, for 'fever is more than the resilience of a bowed-down system,' and is warranted by the fact that the production of vitiated fluids through nervous agency is a matter of not unusual observation."

The essay of Dr. Stiles, though very far from being conclusive as to the validity of the leading views advanced in it, is nevertheless highly suggestive throughout, and may be studied with profit. Even though it lead not to the adoption of the views advanced in respect to the mode of action of morbid and curative agents, nor of the theory of the causation of fever set forth, yet there are some observations in the essay which are calculated to improve our knowledge of the etiology and therapeutics of the class of febrile diseases.

D. F. C.

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ART. XXII.—*Obscure Diseases of the Brain and Mind.* By FORBES WINSLOW, M. D., D. C. L., Oxon, etc. etc. etc. Second American, from the Third and Revised English Edition. 8vo. pp. 348. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea, 1866.

THE author of this work, by his numerous writings, among which we may enumerate the Lettsoman Lectures before the College of Physicians on *The Psychological Vocation of the Physician*, his essays *On the Medical Treatment of Insanity*, on *Medico-legal Evidence in Cases of Insanity*; *The Anatomy of Suicide*; *The Plea of Insanity in Criminal Cases*, his *Psychological Journal*, and the volume now under notice; has given an immense impulse to the study of insanity, and contributed largely to the elucidation of mental disorders, particularly those of an obscure character, and which had previously been too commonly overlooked. By unravelling the phenomena of mind in its natural state, he has led the way to a better knowledge of its diseased condition, and to the recognition of the premonitory symptoms—the *incubation*, as he calls it—of insanity.

The first edition of this work was reviewed at the time of its appearance (see number of this Journal for October, 1860), and we may state that the favourable opinion of it then expressed, has been confirmed by the sale of two large editions of it in England within three years, and one edition in this country. The third edition, of which the present American is a reprint, we find on examination to have been carefully revised throughout, and to be eminently worthy of the attention of the profession.

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ART. XXIII.—*An Inquiry into the Possibility of Restoring the Life of Warm-blooded Animals in certain cases where the Respiration, the Circulation, and the Ordinary Manifestations of Organic Motion are exhausted or have ceased.* By BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON, M. A., M. D. 8vo. pp. 15. (From Proceedings of the Royal Society, June 15, 1865.)

In this highly interesting memoir, the author, by a series of ingeniously devised and carefully performed experiments, has shown the reasons why the restoration of action in cases where life is suspended is at present so doubtful and difficult. The memoir is divided into two parts, the first containing the details of experiments, the second of an analysis of the experimental evidence with the conclusions to which the author has been led.

In the experimental inquiry, the animals operated on were subjected to such means for suspending their animation as produced the least possible change in the structure of organs, such as chloroform, carbonic acid, and drowning.

Throughout the inquiry, Dr. R. states, "I have kept steadily in view a process for restoring the development of force which is constantly and successfully being performed. A simple process enough! I mean the relighting of a taper. I see in the taper as it is burning the analogue of living action. The combustible substance having the force stored up in it circulating through the wick as through so many vessels, becoming distributed in the presence of incandescent heat so as to combine with oxygen; then itself liberating force, burning, and in the process showing spontaneous action, the analogue of living action.

"From this analogy I gather, further, that if I could set the blood burning as it burns in life, after its natural combustion has been suspended, I should relight the animal lamp, and that the redevelopment of force in the form of animal motion, which is life, would be re-established.

"But how in the case of the animal body is the light to be applied? That is the difficulty.

"Suppose that the taper or the fire were known only to us from their spontaneous manifestations, would the task to restore their burning if that had gone out be less difficult? What philosophical process should we adopt? We should first most naturally take fire from fire when that were possible. But how, when that were not possible, should we proceed to obtain the spark for kindling that which we might well know would burn spontaneously after kindling, the proper conditions being supplied? In such case we should most naturally look for the process by which fire is spontaneously exhibited, and we should discover it in the friction of one body with another; in the friction of stone, for example, with iron. Straightway we should imitate this and produce fire, and know how to renew and perpetuate it.

"Again, in our observation of burning bodies we should see often that a point of flame well-nigh extinguished would rekindle under a little additional friction of air, or an additional communication of matter that would burn, and we should acquire an art of sustaining fire by these measures.

"Lastly, as we went on observing we should discover that the force elicited in the combustion could be so applied as to set in motion almost endless mechanism; and we should learn, as we have learned, that however complicate the mechanism, however numerous its parts, it takes all its motion from the fire.

"The physiologist who would distinguish himself by learning the art of re-